

## Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02

OMB-01 ACDA-05 SY-05 USSS-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SAM-01 AID-05

/117 W

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O R 201330Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4864

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MMOL MOPS MR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2620

1. MAURITANIAN ARMED FORCES TOOK SOUTHERNMOST SPANISH

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SAHARA TOWN OF LA GUERA EARLY EVENING DECEMBER 19.

CHAAB, GOVERNMENT RUN DAILY, DECEMBER 20 BANNER HEADLINES:  
"REUNIFICATION OF COUNTRY: LA GUERA FREED YESTERDAY".  
FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL CONTAINS FIRST PUBLIC ADMISSION  
THAT FIGHTING HAS BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN MAURITANIAN  
ARMY AND UNNAMED ELEMENTS, AND CALLS ON "STRAYED  
BROTHERS" TO REALIZED THAT PROCESS OF REUNIFICATION  
WILL NOT STOP AND TO GIVE UP ARMED STRUGGLE.

2. ACCORDING SPANISH EMBOFF (VIA SPANISH DIPLOMATS  
IN NOUADHIBOU), MAURITANIANS ALLOWED POLISARIO UNIT  
TO LEAVE LA GUERA BEFORE IT LAUNCHED ARTILLERY  
BARRAGE WHICH SET FIRE TO GASOLINE AND OIL STORAGE  
DUMPS AND ULTIMATELY MOST OF TOWN. LATER REPORTS  
INDICATED MOST OF LA GUERA WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE  
SAFE IN NOUADHIBOU. NOUAKCHOTT RUMOR CIRCUIT,  
HOWEVER, OFFERS CONFLICTING VERSION: FIGHTING BROKE  
OUT AMONG POLISARIO MEMBERS OVER WHETHER TO PERMIT  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO RESPOND TO MAURITANIAN EXHORTATIONS  
TO LEAVE CITY. IN-FIGHTING ALLOWED MAURITANIAN ARMY  
TO TAKE OVER TOWN WITH MINIMUM OF EFFORT.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY AGREES MAURITANIAN ARMED FORCES  
WILL NOW OCCUPY ENTIRE LA GUERA/NOUADHIBOU PENINSULA,  
CLEAN OUT ANY REMAINING POCKETS OF POLISARIO RESISTANCE,  
AND ESTABLISH NEW MILITARY PERIMETER LINE ACROSS EXTREME  
NORTH END. WITH MAURITANIAN FORCES IN CONTROL OF ENTIRE  
CAP BLANC PENINSULA, ANY SUBSEQUENT FIGHTING WILL PRE-  
SUMABLY BE LIMITED TO AREA 25 TO 30 KILOMETERS NORTH OF  
NOUADHIBOU, CANSADO (EXPATRIATE RESIDENTIAL AREA),  
AND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. FIREFIGHTS BETWEEN INFILTRATING  
POLISARIO GUERRILLAS AND MAURITANIAN SECURITY  
FORCES ON OUTSKIRTS OF NOUADHIBOU OR EVEN IN  
VICINITY OF AIRPORT CANNOT BE RULED OUT.  
BUT CONCERNS RE SECURITY OF AMCITS TRANSITING  
THROUGH OR WORKING AT NOUADHIBOU AIRPORT AND RE  
SAFETY OF AIRCRAFT (RAISED IN STATE 299406)  
WOULD APPEAR TO BE GREATLY ALLEVIATED IF  
NOT ENTIRELY DISSIPATED.

4. ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR DEPARTED HASTILY AND UN-  
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EXPECTEDLY DECEMBER 18. LATE DECEMBER 19 GIRM  
POSTED RIFLE CARRYING ARMY TROOPS AROUND ALGERIAN  
EMBASSY TO REINFORCE EXISTING POLICE GUARDS, AND  
BEGAN RECORDING LICENSE NUMBERS OF ALL VISITORS  
TO EMBASSY. REST OF NOUAKCHOTT APPEARS CALM, AND NEWS  
OF LA GUERA "VICTORY" MAY WELL SLOW PACE OF  
MOBILIZATION EFFORT. HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750443-0483  
**From:** NOUAKCHOTT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, MMOL, MOPS, MR, MO, SS, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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